



The Florida House of Representatives

Chris Sprowls
Speaker

NEWS RELEASE

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Florida House Puts Students and Parents First in Education

*Landmark legislation for school choice, childhood reading
and closing achievement gap pass Florida House*

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (April 21, 2021) — Florida House Speaker Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, heralded a suite of bills that passed in the House today reflecting priorities for Florida's students and parents in K-12 schools. These bills create the largest expansion of a statewide school choice program in the country, seek to increase reading proficiency in young learners and identify strategies to close the achievement gap for boys.

"Decisive and historic action taken by the Florida House today proves we are putting the significant resources and effort toward the educational success of our children," said Speaker Sprowls. "The legislation passed today will give our students and parents the best opportunities and resources to ensure that every child is reading on grade level by 2030. These bills will also address the critical crisis among our boys and provide for the largest expansion of school choice the nation has ever seen."

"The progress made by the Florida House today on behalf of parents and their students will have a lifelong impact for these children," said House Education & Employment Committee Chair Chris Latvala, R-Clearwater. "We seized an opportunity to change the trajectory of children's lives in our state to one of promise and lasting success."

Bills passed today include:

House Bill 3, passed unanimously: Sponsored by Representative Dana Trabulsy, R-Fort Pierce, this legislation serves as the first statewide book distribution program for Florida children and among the largest of its kind in the nation. As part of Speaker Sprowls' "New Worlds Reading Initiative," it provides

high-quality educational books for children free of charge to families as well as supporting literacy resources for parents.

House Bill 7011, passed unanimously: Sponsored by Representative Vance Aloupis, R-Miami, this bill makes concerted efforts to help Florida students read on grade level by 2030 by revising requirements to improve and literacy by making sure that teachers have the resources in place to address the needs of struggling readers.

House Bill 7033, passed unanimously: Sponsored by Representative Traci Koster, R-Tampa, this bill creates the Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys within the Florida Department of Education.

House Bill 7045, passed 79-36: Sponsored by Representative Randy Fine, R-Palm Bay, this legislation creates the largest expansion of school choice in the nation for Florida parents and students. It provides more money and more opportunities for more students than at any time in the state's history.

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